

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A needle arrangement for an injection device (16), having a hollow needle carrier (10) on which a hollow needle (12) is mounted and which is configured for mounting on an injection device (16); having a first cap (32) which is arranged on the hollow needle carrier (10) and is displaceable[y] approximately parallel to the longitudinal extension of the hollow needle (12) between a distal and a proximal end position, is formed [equipped] at its proximal end segment with a passthrough opening (42) for the hollow needle (12), and in its proximal end position substantially conceals the hollow needle (12); having a compression spring (26), arranged between the hollow needle carrier (10) and the first cap (32), for displacing the first cap (32) into its proximal end position; [and] having a second cap (66) adapted to surround said displaceable first cap (32), said hollow needle (12) and said hollow needle carrier (18), and having a user-removable protective barrier (71) closing off an open side of said second cap, whereby said second cap (66) and said protective barrier together form a sterile enclosure around said first cap (32), said hollow needle (12) and said needle carrier (10). [a stop (58, 60, 58', 60'), provided on the outer side (36) of the hollow needle carrier (10) for the distal end position of the first cap (32), which coacts with a distal end segment (53) of the first cap (32) and determines the penetration depth (D) of the hollow needle (12).]
2. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 1, [in which the stop (56, 58, 60, 56', 58', 60') is modifiable] wherein said hollow needle carrier (10) is formed with an internal thread (20) for engagement with an external thread (18) formed on a surface of an associated injection device (16).
3. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 1 [or 2, in which at least two stop elements (58, 60, 58', 60'), each joined to the hollow needle carrier (10) by a defined break point (76), are provided on the outer side (36) of the hollow needle carrier (10)]. wherein said cover cap (66) has a form adapted for transfer of torque to said hollow needle carrier (10).

4. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 3,
[in which the defined break point (76) serves, after it breaks, as axial
guide for the displacement of the first cap (32) relative to the hollow
needle carrier (10)] wherein said cover cap (66) is shaped for form-locking
engagement with said hollow needle carrier (10).

5. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 1,
wherein said user-removable protective barrier (71) is a peelable foil
bonded across said open side of said second cap (66). [as defined in one or
more of the foregoing claims, in which the first cap (32) is arranged
displaceably on a substantially cylindrical circumferential surface (36) of
the hollow needle carrier (10); and
a rotation preventer (44, 45) is provided which at least almost prevents any
rotation between the hollow needle carrier (10) and the first cap (32).]

6. The needle arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
an outer surface (36) of said hollow needle carrier (10) is formed with at
least two stop elements (58, 60, 58', 60') serving to limit axial
displacement of said first cap (32), said stop elements being frangible from
said needle carrier at respective breakpoints (76) formed therein.
[as defined in claim 5, in which the rotation preventer (44, 45) has at
least one longitudinal groove (44) which is provided on the first cap (32)
or hollow needle carrier (10), and
a complementary projection (45) engaging thereinto which is provided on the
corresponding mating part, i.e. the hollow needle carrier or first cap.]

7. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 6, wherein
the cover cap (66) has a form adapted to influence at least one stop member
(58, 60, 58', 60') formed on an outer surface of said hollow needle carrier
(10) in order to set a penetration depth (D) of said needle.
[as defined in one or more of claims 1 through 6, in which the spring is
configured as a plastic spring (26).]

8. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 7, wherein
the at least one stop member (58, 60) is mounted on the hollow needle
carrier (10) via a defined breakpoint (76) at which said stop member can be
broken off by a rotational motion (74) of the covering cap (66, 66') brought
into engagement with said stop member. [in which the plastic spring (26)
is configured integrally with the hollow needle carrier (10).]

9. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 6, wherein
said breakpoint serves as a axial quide for displacement of said first cap
(32) relative to said hollow needle carrier (10). [7 or 8, in which the
plastic spring (26) is equipped at its proximal end with a ring (28) which
is in contact against the first cap (32) and acts upon it in the proximal
direction.]

10. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the first cap (32) is arranged displaceably on a substantially cylindrical circumferential surface (36) of the hollow needle carrier (10), and a rotation preventer (44, 45) is provided between the hollow needle carrier (10) and the first cap (32).

[as defined in claim 9, in which the ring (28) is configured integrally with the plastic spring (26).]

11. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 10, wherein
said rotation preventer includes a longitudinal groove (44), formed on one
of said first cap (32) and said needle carrier (10), and a complementary
projection (45), adapted to engage in said groove (44), formed on the other
of said first cap (32) and said needle carrier (10).

[as defined in one or more of the foregoing claims, in which a covering cap (66) is provided which substantially surrounds the outer circumference (35) of the first cap (32).]

12. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 1,
wherein said compression spring (26) is formed of plastic material.

[as defined in claim 11, in which the covering cap (66) extends over the hollow needle carrier (10); and rotation prevention is provided between it and the hollow needle carrier (10).]

13. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 12,
wherein said plastic spring is formed integrally with said needle carrier
(10).

[in which the rotation preventer (60, 70) has a longitudinal groove (70) which is provided on the covering cap (66) or the hollow needle carrier (10), and a complementary projection (60) engaging thereinto which is provided on the corresponding mating part, i.e. on the hollow needle carrier or covering cap.]

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14. (Amended) The needle arrangement according to claim 12,
wherein said plastic spring (26) has a proximal end formed as a ring (32),
said ring engaging against said first cap (32) and
urging said cap in a proximal direction.

[as defined in one or more of claims 11 through 13, in which the covering cap (66) is sealed in sterile fashion on its open side by a tear-off sealing member (71).]

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15. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in [one or more of] claim[s 11 through] 14, wherein the ring (28) is formed integrally with
said plastic spring (26).

[in which the covering cap (66) is configured so as to influence at least one stop member (58, 60, 58', 60') of the stop provided on the outer side of the hollow needle carrier (10) in order to adjust the penetration depth (D).]

16. (Amended) The needle arrangement as defined in claim 12,
wherein the plastic spring (26) includes a pair of helical spring elements
(26a, 26b), each formed integrally with said hollow needle carrier (10).
[15, in which the at least one stop member (58, 60) of the stop provided on the outer side of the hollow needle carrier (10) is mounted on the hollow needle carrier (10) via a defined break point (76) which can be broken off by way of a rotary motion (74) of the covering cap (66, 66') brought into engagement with said stop member.]

Cancel claims 17-33, without prejudice.